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11 August 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John M. Maury
Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : The "U-10"

1. With reference to Mr. Braswell's request, related in your note of 9 August, we have made extensive checks but can find no "mini-gunship helicopter" referred to as the "U-10" or "manufactured by Fairchild and another smaller company." We think there may be some confusion or garble here involved. There are two fixed wing aircraft presently being operationally evaluated [redacted] under the U.S. Air Force's [redacted] program. (The overall objective of [redacted] is to identify and evaluate relatively simple, low cost counterinsurgency aircraft which could be used by our allies in Southeast Asia.) We suspect Mr. Braswell's request relates to one or both of these two fixed wing planes.

2. The PAVE COIN program is currently assessing lightly armed Short Take Off and Landing (STOL) aircraft to supplement older model helicopters and replace the rapidly aging T-28's. The two aircraft [redacted]

PC-6 PEACEMAKER and Helio's H-550A STALLION. Both of these are turbo prop STOL aircraft capable of carrying wing-mounted bombs or rockets and/or door-mounted mini guns. The PEACEMAKER is Fairchild's version of the Swiss Pilatus Porter, which we believe is manufactured under license from the Swiss company that invented it. In addition to the new STALLION, Helio also produces the COURIER, a STOL aircraft which our military colleagues call the U-10. We suspect Mr. Braswell's request involves a conflation of the manufacturer of one of the two fixed wing plans now under test (Fairchild) and the designation (U-10) of a different aircraft also produced by the company (Helio) which manufactures the other fixed wing plane now being tested.

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3. Neither of these two fixed wing STOL's have ever been used or tested by this Agency. Hence, we are not in a position to offer any useful comments on their performance or effectiveness. We have, of course, made extensive use of the Pilatus Porter. It has proved most effective as a personnel and cargo carrier in both Laos and Vietnam, but we have never attempted to use it as a gunship.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

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